286
531

Sample of Peasant Weaving from the XVII Century.

361 of "Garden City". The social problem is solved here in noteworthy fashion,
288 for although more than half the population is dependent on industry, it has no proletariat.

133 In grappling with its problems, the town has, of course, been helped by its favourable geographical position. The winter sport resort of Bödele which is easily reached by a picturesque road brings life to Dornbirn as soon as the white carpet covers the ground. In summer its chief attraction is a beautiful and sinister gorge which is reached by a romantic artificial flight of steps—the Rappenlochschlucht. Closed in by walls of rock which tower vertically to a height of several hundred feet, crossed far above by a bridge, the turbulent mountain waters far below foam and roar through the gorge. The spectacle is well calculated to awaken a wholesome respect for the might of those forces which give shape and form to surrounding nature, and through her to our own lives.

133 From the tree-covered summit the hoary keep of Neu-Ems Castle overlooks
712 the valley of the Rhine. The steep crag commanding the town bears the ruins of Alt-Ems, before its destruction in the Appenzeller War one of the greatest castles of the German Reich, equal in size to the famous Wartburg. The palace built by Count Kaspar still stands today at the foot of the Castle Rock. A number of other buildings and historic names lend to Dornbirn that magic of departed grandeur which always lingers around historic walls and ancient monuments.

133 THE GARDEN OF VORARLBERG.
In the midst of the plain through which flows the Rhine rises the Kummenberg, a witness to the activity of the Rhine Valley Glacier in the Ice Age. To the south its tree-covered

286 ●
531

from the canton of le Valais, in Switzerland. At the beginning of the 15th century the number of these peasants who came to settle in Graubünden and Vorarlberg was steadily on the increase. These new arrivals seeking employment were readily welcomed by the land-owners, and the uninhabited upper valleys were allotted them to build new homes. In order to persuade them to settle permanently the gift of land was accompanied by various privileges. In this manner the uncultivated part of the Tannberg, in the Upper Bregenzerwald, and especially the two Walser valleys which have taken their name from it, developed into the home of a sturdy peasant race which has become a permanent factor of the national and economic structure of the Province.

Anyone who wants to form a picture of the strenuous way in which these descendants of the old inhabitants of the Valais who have retained much of the peculiarities of their former country in their speech, dress and customs gain a bare existence from a grudging nature, needs only to observe how they live in the Grosse Walsertal. Generations of bitter struggle for daily bread have produced a sturdy and weather-beaten folk whose existence is deeply rooted in the soil.

The people of Vorarlberg are not uniform in character, but form rather a mosaic of various sturdy elements welded together by historical developments.

slopes rise gradually, but to the north it falls away steeply. It is well worth the trouble of climbing, for looking down from its heights one has a delightful outlook over the entire Vorarlberg part of the Rhine Valley. In the east the picturesque houses of the market town of Götzis combine their greetings with those of the massive ruins of Neu-Montfort. The chief picture to the north and south is that of innumerable tiny rectangles of grass alternating with arable land, a clue to the agricultural structure of the countryside. An unusual trick of nature affords amusement to visitors to the summit of the Kummenberg: pieces of paper or material which are thrown out over the yawning depths are returned to their owner by the air currents. Even hats which have been tossed over are said to come back of their own accord, but not everyone cares to put this to the test.

133

[311]

To the south of the Kummenberg a vale branches off from the main Rhine valley which is called the "Garden of Vorarlberg". About a dozen pleasant villages cling to the foot of the mountain or have found themselves a sunny place half way up it, and in blossom-time the whole countryside is one fragrant bridal bouquet. On the sunny slopes flourish delicious grapes; Fraxern, hidden in a hollow between the green hills, is famous for its wonderful black cherries, which attract crowds of visitors who arrive with baskets and carts. Viktorsberg, looking

361
245

city. The bronze Guards of Honour who, it was planned, should watch over him in the grave, belong to the many great conceptions which are perhaps most impressive in their unfulfillment.

With Maximilian, whose body actually lies buried in his native town of Wiener Neustadt, the star of Tyrol began to wane. Under Ferdinand I the Province became affected by the religious and social unrest of the Reformation, which was embodied in the person of Michel Gaismair; at the same time, however, the Council of Trent met in the south of the Province.

It was this ruler who divided his provinces into three, and for a hundred years Tyrol had its own regents. The very first one, the Archduke Ferdinand, won the heart of the Tyrolese through his love match with Philippine Welser, of Augsburg, as well as through his encouragement of the arts and sciences, which found lasting expression in the collection of Schloss Ambras, near Innsbruck.

Next it was a princess, Claudia of Medici, whose memory was enshrined in Tyrolese hearts, above all through the courageous rule of her Chancellor, Wilhelm Biener, who lived at Büchsenhausen near Innsbruck and who fell a victim to the executioner's sword in the fortress of Rattenberg. It was at this time that the Porta Claudia was set up at Scharnitz as a protection against the Swedes. Tyrol indeed escaped the Thirty Years' War, but

borage and rosemary and the coloured glass balls on sticks are the pride of the farmer's wife. 351

On entering the house it is easy to find one's way round. The living room and kitchen are on the ground floor, the sleeping quarters on the first story. The living room is panelled. In a darker corner away from the window stands the cosy, tiled stove, and in the window-nook the large table. A small bench runs the length or the walls, spreading out to form a comfortable chimney corner behind the stove. The cupboards are built into the walls and the tall grandfather-clock is built into the panelling. A font of holy-water is always to be found at the right hand side of the door, and a crucifix, decorated with a red and a yellow ear of maize, gives its blessing to the daily bread from the window corner overlooking 342 352 353

286 531

Weaving Pattern, XVII Century.